

# **HIGH SCHOOL SURVEY REPORT**

## **For SPRING 2013**

### **STATEWIDE OCCUPANT RESTRAINT USAGE STUDY**

Office of Traffic Safety – Grant  
Report Date: September 30, 2013

#### SCOPE

The goal of the study is to estimate what percentage of California high school student drivers and passengers use seatbelts when entering or exiting high school parking facilities. High schools are drawn from the list of state high schools provided by the California Department of Education. At each selected school, field workers observe cars entering (or leaving) the school's parking lot. Seatbelt usage is observed and recorded for the driver and front seat passenger. For 2013, the survey was conducted during the spring school term for efficiency of collection and to better capture the increased number of drivers who have their licenses in spring versus the fall semester.

#### Statewide High School Surveys Project Objectives

- To conduct surveys using a probability based methodology developed for the statewide sampling of high school drivers and passengers.
- To sample 100 high school statewide sites.
- To record seat belt restraint usage of drivers and passengers in automobiles, vans, and pickups at high school parking facilities in the spring of 2013.

#### RESULTS

The problem statement is whether California's seat belt usage law is having an effect on high school drivers and passenger's usage rates throughout the State. The primary goal is to provide data on usage rates to NHTSA, OTS, CHP officials and project personnel.

The basic finding was a combined high school driver and passenger usage rate of 96.9 percent (Table 1) versus 96.1 percent for 2012. This rate has shown a steady and significant increase over the past few years. Driver only rates were 97.2 percent in 2013 versus 96.3 percent in 2012. That rate has been steadily climbing. Passenger rates, which have showed large gains in recent years, also continued to rise with a rate of 96.2 percent in 2013 versus 95.8 percent in 2012 (and 85.7 percent as recently as 2009). Consistent with the 2012 findings, the passenger rates have nearly risen to the level of driver rates, where a significant gap had existed in previous years. When the gender of drivers is examined in Tables 4 and 5, the normal pattern of females (97.7%) wearing their belts more frequently than males (96.7%) was observed, but the rates for both genders have reached very high levels.

When combined rates were aggregated by the size of school enrollments (Table 6), small (96.4%), medium (96.9%), and large schools (97.0%) had about equal rates. This is the second year in a row that nominal differences were found based on school size suggesting that school size has become a relatively unimportant predictor of restraint usage.

The combined data are aggregated by county and sorted (Table 8). The gap in usage rates across counties is reducing from previous years. For the first time since the survey was begun, all of the counties had usage rates above 90 percent. The increased usage across counties can be clearly seen in Table 9.

When taken as a whole, the seatbelt usage of teens (96.9%) has improved to the point where it has nearly reached the overall driving population. This finding was true in both 2012 and 2013. Teen rates have shown improvements for many reasons, including that teens face tough penalties for receiving a seatbelt ticket. Awareness and enforcement appear to have largely closed a gap which has been persistent over a large number of years. Only future surveys, however, will confirm whether this is a temporary condition or a new status quo.

<b>Table 1.</b>				
<b>COMBINED Seatbelt Usage Rates by Vehicle Type</b>				
Cells contain: - Column percent - N of cases	<b>Vehicle</b>			
	1 Auto	2 SUV/Van	3 Pickup	Row Total
<b>Belted</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>96.9</b>
	6552	2635	1243	10430
<b>Not Belted</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>
	211	58	64	333

<b>Table 2.</b>				
<b>Teen Driver Seatbelt Usage Rates by Vehicle Type</b>				
Cells contain: - Column percent - N of cases	<b>Vehicle</b>			
	1 Auto	2 SUV/Van	3 Pickup	Row Total
<b>Belted</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>98.2</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>97.2</b>
	4800	1939	918	7657
<b>Not Belted</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>
	146	36	41	223

**Table 3.****Passenger Seatbelt Usage Rates by Vehicle Type**

Cells contain: - Column percent - N of cases	Vehicle			
	1 Auto	2 SUV/Van	3 Pickup	Row Total
<b>Belted</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>96.2</b>
	1752	696	325	2773
<b>Not Belted</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>
	65	22	23	110

**Table 4.****Teen MALE Driver Seatbelt Usage Rates by Vehicle Type**

Cells contain: - Column percent - N of cases	Vehicle			
	1 Auto	2 SUV/Van	3 Pickup	Row Total
<b>Belted</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>96.7</b>
	2408	853	685	3946
<b>Not Belted</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>
	80	20	36	136

**Table 5.****Teen FEMALE Driver Seatbelt Usage Rates by Vehicle Type**

Cells contain: - Column percent - N of cases	Vehicle			
	1 Auto	2 SUV/Van	3 Pickup	Row Total
<b>Belted</b>	<b>97.3</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>97.7</b>
	2348	1069	223	3640
<b>Not Belted</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>
	66	16	5	87

**Table 6.****School Size Usage Rates by Vehicle Type**

Cells contain: - Column percent	Vehicle			
	1 Auto	2 SUV/Van	3 Pickup	Row Total
<b>Small</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>96.4</b>
<b>Medium</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>96.9</b>
<b>Large</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>97.0</b>
Column Total	<b>96.9</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>96.9</b>

**Table 7**  
**Combined High School Usage Rates by County 2006-2013 (Alphabetical)**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013
Alameda	99.8	98.0	92.9	90.1	94.3	96.9	96.1
Contra Costa	92.8	89.4	91.9	94.2	91.8	100.0	97.7
El Dorado	94.0	94.2	85.3	94.6	89.7	95.2	93.0
Fresno	93.4	83.5	84.6	91.5	97.5	98.0	95.3
Glenn	88.6	88.0	94.6	95.2	98.4	88.3	94.2
Kern	77.2	76.6	92.5	87.4	94.9	98.0	97.9
Kings	91.2	79.2	73.9	98.0	99.2	99.0	90.5
Los Angeles	90.7	88.5	86.3	92.6	91.6	95.6	97.3
Marin	99.1	98.6	98.3	98.8	97.8	99.2	97.3
Mendocino	86.4	94.8	92.7	96.4	92.4	94.1	98.8
Merced	90.8	77.9	80.8	85.7	91.2	98.7	97.0
Monterey	82.0	91.3	87.6	93.4	86.8	87.2	99.6
Orange	93.5	93.4	93.4	90.8	94.4	94.2	98.5
Placer	91.3	86.8	87.3	91.8	94.7	90.6	94.4
Riverside	93.0	81.0	90.2	85.9	94.0	93.1	95.9
Sacramento	85.4	92.0	93.0	94.8	95.8	98.7	95.4
San Bernardino	95.1	92.2	92.9	79.7	91.7	92.9	94.5
San Diego	86.6	91.0	92.8	91.9	94.1	96.9	97.0
San Joaquin	90.6	90.7	88.0	95.0	94.6	98.7	94.1
San Mateo	93.9	93.2	94.5	95.6	95.7	95.1	97.0
Santa Barbara	96.2	96.3	88.0	97.4	97.3	98.2	95.6
Santa Clara	90.5	97.9	91.7	93.2	98.2	94.5	99.3
Santa Cruz	91.0	94.9	97.9	95.1	95.8	100.0	100.0
Shasta	96.4	93.7	90.5	95.7	92.5	87.4	97.7
Solano	92.6	98.2	91.2	91.1	94.2	95.8	91.0
Stanislaus	90.7	91.1	96.6	94.2	99.1	98.7	95.1
Tulare	91.6	80.2	81.4	92.8	96.9	97.3	96.8
Ventura	95.3	95.6	96.5	94.5	97.0	98.6	96.7
Yolo	92.9	93.9	98.5	93.8	90.7	96.8	95.7

**Table 8**  
**Combined High School Usage Rates by County 2006-2013 (By 2013 Rate)**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013
Santa Cruz	91.0	94.9	97.9	95.1	95.8	100.0	100.0
Monterey	82.0	91.3	87.6	93.4	86.8	87.2	99.6
Santa Clara	90.5	97.9	91.7	93.2	98.2	94.5	99.3
Mendocino	86.4	94.8	92.7	96.4	92.4	94.1	98.8
Orange	93.5	93.4	93.4	90.8	94.4	94.2	98.5
Kern	77.2	76.6	92.5	87.4	94.9	98.0	97.9
Contra Costa	92.8	89.4	91.9	94.2	91.8	100.0	97.7
Shasta	96.4	93.7	90.5	95.7	92.5	87.4	97.7
Los Angeles	90.7	88.5	86.3	92.6	91.6	95.6	97.3
Marin	99.1	98.6	98.3	98.8	97.8	99.2	97.3
Merced	90.8	77.9	80.8	85.7	91.2	98.7	97.0
San Diego	86.6	91.0	92.8	91.9	94.1	96.9	97.0
San Mateo	93.9	93.2	94.5	95.6	95.7	95.1	97.0
Tulare	91.6	80.2	81.4	92.8	96.9	97.3	96.8
Ventura	95.3	95.6	96.5	94.5	97.0	98.6	96.7
Alameda	99.8	98.0	92.9	90.1	94.3	96.9	96.1
Riverside	93.0	81.0	90.2	85.9	94.0	93.1	95.9
Yolo	92.9	93.9	98.5	93.8	90.7	96.8	95.7
Santa Barbara	96.2	96.3	88.0	97.4	97.3	98.2	95.6
Sacramento	85.4	92.0	93.0	94.8	95.8	98.7	95.4
Fresno	93.4	83.5	84.6	91.5	97.5	98.0	95.3
Stanislaus	90.7	91.1	96.6	94.2	99.1	98.7	95.1
San Bernardino	95.1	92.2	92.9	79.7	91.7	92.9	94.5
Placer	91.3	86.8	87.3	91.8	94.7	90.6	94.4
Glenn	88.6	88.0	94.6	95.2	98.4	88.3	94.2
San Joaquin	90.6	90.7	88.0	95.0	94.6	98.7	94.1
El Dorado	94.0	94.2	85.3	94.6	89.7	95.2	93.0
Solano	92.6	98.2	91.2	91.1	94.2	95.8	91.0
Kings	91.2	79.2	73.9	98.0	99.2	99.0	90.5

**Table 9**  
**Number of Rates by Range**

<u>Rate</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
90%+	3	11	23	18	19	25	27	26	29
80%-89.9%	21	13	5	8	9	3	2	3	0
<79.9%	7	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	0